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Thursday, January 31, 1952

We had a long meeting this morning with Bill Draper, Bill Pawley, Tick Bonesteel and half a dozen others on the subject of the third slice of infrastructure for which the French have not made any budgetary provision. The problems raised were very complex and we will have a later meeting. I talked to Jack McCloy on the telephone this morning. He is in the hospital at Munich, having broken his ankle in a skiing accident. He narrowly escaped an amputation of his leg, but is now recovering. This afternoon Jean Monnet and Bill Draper came to see me and we spent an hour or more discussing the French military effort. The financial situation of France is in dreadful shape, and it will require unusual efforts and a considerable degree of imagination to assist them in carrying out their military program for NATO while at the same time supporting their overwhelming task in Indochina. The alternative to such action is a drastic curtailment of their contribution to NATO, which would grievously injure the plans of that organization. Mr. Charles-Roux came to say goodbye before

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assuming his post as French Consul General in Boston. His is an excellent appointment for that position. At six o'clock I went to the Jockey Club as one of the sponsors of Ambrose Chambers for membership. Sosthène de la Rochefoucauld was the other sponsor. We stood together for an hour while members came by and shook hands with us before balloting. Sosthène was dressed in a tail coat, while I had compromised on a short coat and striped trousers. The whole affair was [redacted] genial, and I had an opportunity to see many French friends whom I had not met since my last visit to the Jockey Club, which I regret to say was on the date [redacted] I myself became a member. On the staircase are the names of those who died in the two World Wars, and this leaves a vivid impression of what a large proportion of such a limited class of French people died in those conflicts. If one multiplies that proportion and applies it to the whole population of France, the result is quite terrifying. ~~Roughly, a loss of 1,500,000 dead in~~ the first war and 600,000 in the second. My recollection is that, in all the wars in which we have been engaged, including the Revolution, our deaths total about a milli[redacted]

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We had a dinner tonight prior to the Roosevelt Ball at the Hotel du Palais d'Orsay. The Duc de Gramont, his son and daughter-in-law, the Duc and Duchesse de Guiche, were there. They run the French organization for infantile paralysis sufferers to which the proceeds of this Ball are given. The other guests were Baron and Baroness Elie de Rothschild and Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Chambers. The performance at the Palais d'Orsay, under the admirable management of Ken Bolton, was excellent and, for once, I did not see anyone to whom I talked politics. There were some fine performers, amongst them Jean Sablon, whom I only knew through his recordings. We got home [redacted] late.

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